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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7972

VINFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSYPALANABAT IMMEDIATE 4589

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2133

C C N F I B E N I I A L KABUL 22183

ISLAMABAD ALSO FOR USIS

E.O. 12328(DCL: OADR

TAGS: PIRN, PGOV, AF, UR

SUBJECT: PDPA PLENUM REPORTEDLY CONVENES

REF: A) KABUL 217 (NOTAL), B) KABUL 2127/(PARA 19F) N

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CSC/HR

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1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES CLAIM THAT A PDPA PARTY PLENUM CONVENED ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 27. WHILE NO KABUL MEDIA HAVE YET REPORTED A PLENUM, EXTRA SECURITY WAS NOTED ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 27TH AROUND THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY WHICH RECENTLY HAS BEEN THE SITE OF IMPORTANT PARTY AND REGIME GATHERINGS.

3. AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON ON JANUARY 28, A LARGE

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GATHERING OF OFFICIALS, WHICH HEAVY SECURITY, INDICATED A MEETING WAS UNDERWAY ON THE PALACE GROUNDS. IN THE PAST, SUCH MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN THE RESULTS OF PLENUMS HAVE BEEN CONVENED AT THE PALACE THE DAY AFTER A PLENUM.

4. REPORTS OF AN IMMINENT PLENUM HAVE CIRCULATED FOR THE LAST TEN DAYS WITH VARYING REPORTS AS TO THE

SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING. AN EAST BLOC DIPLOMAT CLAIMED RECENTLY THAT THE PLENUM, "WHICH DOES NOT HAVE THE SOVIET'S BLESSING," WAS TO EFFECT SOME PERSONNEL CHANGES AT MID AND SENIOR LEVELS OF THE PARTY, ALTHOUGH PUBLIC EMPHASIS WOULD BE TIED TO DISCUSSION OF ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

5. AFGHANS SPECULATED THAT TWO PARTY FIGURES MIGHT BE REMOVED OR DEMOTED ARE POLITICIAN MEMBERS OF THE

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NUR AND ABDUL ZOHOR RAZAMJO. WHILE THERE ARE NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT KHALQI FACTION LEADER GALAEZOI S ON POLITICAL TROUBLE, AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC OBSERVATIONS DOUBT HE WOULD BE DEMOTED OR REMOVED. THERE ALSO HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT NAJIBULLAH WOULD CONTINUE TO MOVE AGAINST HABIB KARMAL SUPPORTERS BY OUSTING THOSE REMAINING IN HIGH PLACES AND BY PROMOTING PERSONNEL LOYAL TO HIM, AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST. IT IS REMOTELY POSSIBLE THAT KHALQI HIT-MAN ASSADULLAH SARWARI MIGHT BE PUT BACK IN THE POLITBURO (REF A).

6. COMMENT: SCHEDULING OF A PLENUM NOW, IN THE MIST OF CORDOVEZ'S SHUTTLE AND ON THE EVE OF A RUMORED VISIT BY VORONTSOV, SUGGESTS PRESSING PARTY BUSINESS. WE ARE UNSURE OF HOW MUCH MEANING TO ATTACH TO THE ABOVE EAST BLOC COMMENT THAT THIS PLENUM DOES NOT HAVE

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SOVIET "PLESSING." IN AN EVENT, WE DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT A PLENUM COULD BE CONVENED OVER OUTRIGHT SOVIET OPPOSITION.

7. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MCWILLIAMS

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